

A
DESCRIPTION
OF
BUXTON,
AND
THE ADJACENT COUNTRY;
OR THE
NEW GUIDE,
FOR
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
RESORTING TO
That PLACE of HEALTH and AMUSEMENT;
WHERE
For the CONVENIENCE of the PUBLIC,
His GRACE the DUKE of DEVONSHIRE,
Has magnificently provided such very handsome
and ample Accommodations.

MANCHESTER:

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A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F
B U X T O N, &c.

THE salubrity of the air, and the excellent quality of the water, are entitled to very particular and distinguished notice, on account of both their very ancient reputation and great usefulness. It will scarcely admit of a doubt, that Buxton, on account of its warm springs, was frequented by the Romans, at the time when they were in possession of this country, and tho' this place was very much attended in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the number of those who have resorted thither since that time, has been continually increasing:

creasing; houses for their reception and accommodation, have also, as might be supposed, been multiplied in the same proportion: The Hall, which is the most ancient building, has been erected at different periods; the oldest part was raised above two hundred years ago; in the reign of Charles the 1st. an addition was made to it by George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, but the largest part was not built till nearly the middle of the present century. Besides the Hall, there are several other houses designed for the same purpose, but none of them are equal to it in size, or convenience of situation; however, there has been lately erected, a range of building, which for beauty and magnificence, exceeds any other in this part of the kingdom; it is constructed

ed in the form of a crescent, with a colonade extending the whole length of the front; the space of the building is two hundred and fifty-seven feet, the colonade within the pillars is seven feet wide, and eleven feet high. This crescent consists of four private lodging houses and two hotels, and the assembly room, which forms a part of the larger hotel, is 75 feet 6 inches long, 30 feet 2 inches wide and 30 feet high; an elegant stone ballustrade extends the whole length of the front, and the arms of the Cavendish family, neatly carved in stone, are fixed in the centre; the number of windows in this magnificent building are upwards of 300. It is not possible to ascertain with exactness the number of the company who resort to Buxton every season,
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but it is computed that the public buildings and private lodgings will accommodate above 700 persons, besides the inhabitants of the place, and it is well known that for some years past, several persons have occasionally been obliged to seek lodgings in the neighbouring villages.

There are circumstances attending the use of Buxton water, of which it may not be improper to take notice; when drank in considerable quantity, it is found to possess a binding and heating quality, and is productive of many feverish symptoms—with a view of preventing such disagreeable effects, it is usual to recommend a gentle purgative, to keep the body open. Buxton waters, in common with a great many

many others, are observed, upon first drinking, to affect the head with a sort of giddiness, attended with a sense of universal fulness and drowsiness, but after using them a few days, these sensations go off, and are seldom or never perceived afterwards ; this spirit is different in different waters, and in most appears so extremely fugitive, that it immediately flies off when exposed to the air—all waters are best when drank at the fountain-head—Pure water, as it betrays neither taste nor smell, must be admirably calculated to correct the acrimonious state of the fluids, from whatever cause it may arise, and if any thing upon earth can be considered as an universal remedy, it must be water—a uniform course of this pure element, assisted by

by exercise and a proper regimen in diet, will do more in some diseases than any thing we know of.

Buxton waters are of particular service to people who are subject to bilious cholics, but the patient must be careful to assist them by observing a suitable regimen in his diet, avoiding all things of a hot stimulating nature, or such as have a tendency to exalt the humours. There is a cholic which attacks people of a scorbutic habit, which seems to derive its origin from the acrimonious state of the humours, and Buxton waters are found to be of singular service in that disorder, especially when accompanied with such remedies as tend to correct the impurities of the blood. These waters restore the tone
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of the stomach and intestines, after diarrhous and dysenteries contracted at sea, or upon land ; but the patient should be advised to begin with small doses, increasing the quantity as they are found to agree. They are also found to be of use in the cure of the diabetes ; and those who are subject to fits of the gravel frequently find great benefit from them.

These waters are famous for the cure of rheumatic complaints, and in several kinds of palsy, they are preferred to Bath. Those who go to Buxton on account of rheumatic complaints find their pains increase—after bathing and drinking the waters a few days, they will perceive a sensation of fulness and uneasiness all over their bodies, but this is no unpromising

promising sign, as it denotes that the impacted matter is attenuated, and again absorbed into the circulation, which before had been obstructed in the small vessels running between the fibres of the muscles; they ought therefore to persist in bathing and drinking, taking care to avoid cold, which might be of bad consequence and endanger an attack of a rheumatic fever. If any particular joint be more affected than the rest, it must be well pumped and rubbed with a flesh brush, in order to attenuate the impacted matter. Many rheumatic persons of my acquaintance have received great benefit from wearing a flannel shirt next their skin, and it is known, from reason and experience, to be a powerful promoter of insensible perspiration. These waters

ters are serviceable in the scorbutic rheumatism, which often attacks women and men of a weakly constitution ; and differs from the genuine rheumatism, from its being more irregular in its attacks, seldom or ever attended with any degree of fever, and rarely occasioning any swelling.

The waters of Buxton are of so happy a temperature, that they may be used either as a warm or cold bath—the instant a person plunges into the water, he receives a shock nearly equal to what is felt upon going into river water in a hot summer's day, in a few minutes the sensation of coldness goes off, a most agreeable warmth succeeds, and if the patient remains in the bath, a relaxation of the vessels and muscular parts will

will ensue; this may justly be esteemed amongst the chief properties of Buxton water, in which it very widely differs, from both Bath and Bristol; for in the one, the waters are too hot, and in the other too cold, to enjoy this advantage.

There are few diseases that require bathing more than once in twenty-four hours, and according to the nature of the case, the time of remaining in the bath must be shortened or protracted; if it be short, it operates much after the manner of a river bath in the height of summer; but if the person chuses to remain in the water above four minutes, the relaxing power of the bath will then begin to take place. The morning, about an hour before breakfast is the best

best time for bathing, though any time of the day may be proper, if not too soon after eating. Few people drink above three pints of the water in a day, but if their stomachs can well bear, and the nature of the case requires it, they may safely increase the quantity. The usual season for drinking the water is from the beginning of April to the beginning of November; but if the patient requires a longer perseverance, he may safely use it all the winter, as it is found upon repeated trials to be equally good in all seasons. The baths which are five in number, have been formed at different periods; the gentlemen's has been built time immemorial—that of the Ladies is of a more moderate date—there are three private baths, a cold bath, and
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one which is appropriated to the use of the poor. They are all adjoining to one another, but distinct apartments. In the Gentleman's bath, the water rises on the south east side, in a stratum of lime-stone, and in the others through several seams in the floor. It has been calculated that all the springs throw out water at the rate of sixty gallons in a minute; the Gentlemen's bath has filled to the height of five feet in fifty minutes, and two hours and fifty minutes are required to fill all the three baths — The poor at their bath are not only exempted from all charge, but also meet with great assistance and support from the charitable contributions of the company who resort to Buxton, as it is customary for every new comer, if he stays more than one

one day, to give one shilling for their use, which is collected and taken care of by the steward of the house in which he happens to lodge; and the sum raised in this way in the course of the season, has some years past been very considerable. The common weekly allowance to the poor is six shillings, and should any of them be more weak and necessitous, then it is usual to add something more.

Buxton is a place of resort for pleasure, as well as health; the common amusements are, in the morning, taking the air, and, sometimes hunting; and in the evening, plays and dancing; to the former purpose the country is most excellently adapted, and a most excellent pack of harriers are kept by Mr. Cummings at the Hall,

Hall, where all Gentlemen that resort to Buxton, may have the pleasure of hunting from Michaelmas to Lady-day ; being high and open, it forms a pleasing contrast to those who are accustomed to low and flat situations.

Pool's Hole is situated at a small distance from Buxton, the entrance is low and contracted, as that of Peak's Hole is lofty and magnificent ; the passage at first is so very low and narrow, that it is impossible to go forward without stooping ; after having proceeded between 20 and 30 yards in this posture, you enter a spacious and lofty cavern, the roof and sides of which are continually dropping, and congeals itself into large pillars, and masses upon the floor ; these bodies are daily increasing

ing from the disposition of calcareous earth, with which the drops of water from the roof are discharged in very great abundance, and it is no small amusement as you go along, to observe the diversity of curious figures which they have produced; when you reach the flitch of bacon, which is a large icicle hanging from the roof of the cavern, it becomes a little contracted, but beyond this part it grows wide and lofty again, and continues so till you come to the Queen of Scots' pillar, a name given to a large massy column of stalactitæ, on account of its having been visited, according to tradition, by that unfortunate queen during her stay at Buxton: These lines, she wrote upon a pane of Glass, at the Hall, when she left Buxton;

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Buxton, whose fame thy Baths shall ever tell;
Whom I, perhaps, shall see no more, farewell.

As the Pillar cannot be passed without some difficulty and danger, few persons venture beyond it, nor does it seem desirable, for by proceeding thus far, a pretty compleat idea of the cavern may be formed; the path hitherto lies along the side and at some height from the bottom of this subterraneous passage, but to visit and examine the interior extremity, it becomes necessary to descend a few yards by very slippery and ill formed steps; at first the path at the bottom is tolerably even and level, but at the distance of twenty yards from hence, the passage rises with a perpendicular ascent to the height of about eighty yards; as it is difficult to climb up, it seldom happens that
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such an attempt is made by those who are led by mere curiosity into the place, however, it is customary for the guide to fix a candle at the extremity, which to those that stand below has a singular and beautiful effect, and appears much like an evening star.

The way by which you return, lies along the bottom of the cavern, and you are obliged to pass under the Queen of Scots' pillar; by thus changing the path, you are furnished with an opportunity of viewing other accumulations of water icicle, some of which are of a prodigious size and extraordinary form; you are likewise better enabled by this means to ascertain the height and width of the cavern in every part; when you re-

turn to the narrow passage by which you entered, two cavities in the rock are shewn, one of which is called Pool's Chamber, and the other his Closet. The whole length of this subterraneous passage is said to be five hundred and sixty yards, viz. four hundred and sixty to the Queen of Scots Pillar, and one hundred beyond it. A few years ago as some men were getting stone at the top of the hill above it to burn to lime, they broke into a fresh cavern, which is supposed to communicate with Pool's Hole at the bottom of the hill, but impossible to get down. About a mile and a half from this hill stands Axe-edge, which is one of the highest hills in this country, from which of a fine clear day, with a telescope, you may see the Welch mountains, and the
 Light-house

Light-house beyond Liverpool, and out of which Hill issue four rivers, Wye, Dane, Dove, and Goit.

But the most striking and remarkable cavern in Derbyshire, which has yet been discovered in the clefts of the lime-stone rocks, is met with at Castleton, about twelve miles from Buxton, and is generally known by the name of Peak's-hole; it is situated in a deep and narrow recess of the valley in which the town stands. On each side, and near the end of this recess, two large faces of rock are seen rising to a vast height; on the summit to the left, and close to the edge of the precipice an antient castle appears, as it were perched aloft in the air, and at the foot of the rock on the opposite side, the

mouth of the cavern opens with grandeur and magnificence; it is about eight yards high and forty wide, the arch at the entrance is regularly formed, and in a direct line extends near three hundred feet; this part is tolerably light, and inhabited by a number of poor people employed in the manufacture of packthread, who have built small dwellings, and follow their work in this spacious and extended vault, without experiencing the burning heats of the summer, or the sharp colds of the winter season. Beyond the first turning, a gentle declivity is perceived, and the path is rendered wet and dirty by the drops of water which are frequently falling from the roof; at the distance of about one hundred and thirty yards from the mouth of the cavern

cavern, all further progress into it was formerly obstructed by a projection of the rock and a deep gulph at the extremity of it, but a passage is now opened through the rock, and a door is hung and locked, to prevent any one going beyond this place without the assistance of a guide. The cavern, which has been some time gradually contracted, appears about twenty yards from hence, to be entirely closed in every part; however, upon a near approach to the rock, a low passage under it, almost full of water, is discovered; this opening is just large enough to admit a small boat, but the passengers are obliged to lie almost flat down; upon landing you will find yourself in a cavern still more spacious than the former, as it is said to be seventy yards wide

wide and forty high ; but not a ray of light can enter it, excepting that which proceeds from a candle which you carry with you, and the faint glimmering of this, tends only to render you sensible of the extreme darkness and horror of the place ; however, by a proper disposition of candles, a tolerable complete idea of its shape and size may be formed, and when sufficiently illuminated, a path may be observed on the right hand, which leads up a steep ascent to the top of a high rock, called the Chancel ; descending from this elevated situation, and proceeding further in the cavern, you will perceive that it becomes again much narrower and lower, but from this part to the end, nothing occurs which is particularly deserving of remark. The whole
length

length of this subterraneous passage is said to be 750 yards. About eight years ago, at a small distance from the end of the old passage a new one was discovered, its length is about 164 yards, but it is not equal either in height or width to that which has been described. It may be proper to observe that a stream of water runs through the whole length of this celebrated cavern, which must be crossed several times, and in one place, on account of its depth, the assistance of the guide becomes necessary—after heavy rain this little rivulet is generally so much swelled as to render it impossible to visit the more distant parts of the cavern.

The valley in the Peak which is the most striking, is that in which the
town

town of Castleton stands. The first view you get into it is the best, more especially at a point where the road makes a sudden and abrupt turning along the edge of a high and steep precipice down into the town of Castleton: The valley which is at least 800 feet deep, and in many parts near two miles wide, extends directly eastward to the distance of five or six miles; a number of lesser dales from the north and south, are seen at various distances to open into it, and the steep hill of the valley is also rendered very beautiful by a series of well cultivated inclosures, which rise one above another to its very edge.

The village of Hope, with its spire church, which stands about two miles to the east, down the valley, has a very agreeable

agreeable effect; directing your eye along the north side of the valley, you see the country boldly swelling into hills, and at length terminating into two high points at a considerable distance from each other; when you descend from this elevated situation, a fresh set of objects present themselves, no less striking and picturesque, and at the bottom you observe the town of Castleton. On a very high eminence to the south of it, the ruins of an ancient castle frequently attract your eye; and directly beyond the town, the celebrated Mam Torr raises its lofty head, and with an awful majesty seems to overlook all the scene of beauty and grandeur; every mile, nay almost every step presents fresh objects and scenes, some of them grand, beautiful

tiful, and romantic. Whoever has followed the course of the river Derwent from Hathersage, by Chatfworth, Darley, Matlock and Duffield, as far as the town of Derby, will have a clearer idea of the highly varied and charming scenery of this valley, than any words can express; however it may perhaps be worth while to attempt a description of that part of it which passes near the village of Matlock.

Before you reach Matlock, when you approach it from the south, you are presented with a specimen of the scenery by which the dale is distinguished; there is a piece of rock at the bottom of Cromford-hill, which is varied on its surface, and beautifully fringed with wood;
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on the right of this, Sir Richard Arkwright has erected a most noble mansion house on the other side the river Derwent. The entrance into Matlock dale is through a rock which has been blasted for the purpose of opening a convenient passage. It was intended to have left a rude arch when the passage was made—the idea was a happy one, and had it been carried into execution, would have had an excellent effect; but even in its present state the views from this place are very striking. On the left hand, prodigious high, barren, and large rocks appear, and casting your eye on the contrary side of the dale, you see others rising to the perpendicular height of 2 or 300 feet, and forming a most magnificent rampart; but the horror they would inspire is
greatly

greatly diminished by the variety of trees and shrubs with which several of them are adorned. These give a softness to the scene, and render it both beautiful and sublime, whilst the lower part of the dale is covered with wood and branches of trees, which hang in a very pleasing manner over the edge of the river; the most stupendous rocks are seen boldly projecting forward, some entirely bare, and others partly covered with shrubs which have no nourishment or support but what is found in the crevices of these rocks: this scene is very much heightened and improved by the constant winding of the dale, which extends in nearly the same romantic stile to the distance of two miles. But to render the charms of this delightful place more pleasing,
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the river Derwent, which has been already observed to pass through it, flows in some parts with a noise, and a rapid current, and in others with such a deep and gentle stream, that its unruffled surface clearly reflects the rocks and woods near its margin; thus do rocks, trees, shrubs, and water conspire, at once to fill the mind of the spectator with admiration and delight. The dale will be seen with still additional advantage by crossing the river in a boat above the Old Bath, where it is observed, that art has contributed to improve the natural beauty of the place—on landing, three walks are seen pointing through the wood in so many different directions, two of them by curious and frequent windings along the side of the dale, at last bring you to its summit

mit, on the edge of a very high and steep precipice, where you have a new and different view of all the beautiful scenes through which you have passed. The other path I have mentioned is called the Lover's Walk, and runs along the side of the river; it has been cut through the side of the wood, and is beautifully arched by the branches of the trees with which it is inclosed; there is, besides, another very pleasant walk through a grove which lies betwixt the old and new Bath. There is no object however in Matlock Dale so striking, as a grand and stupendous rock, known by the name of the High Torr; it rises almost perpendicular from the river to the height of about 300 feet, and boldly projects its broad front into the valley—the upper part
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is one solid mass, and for 60 yards appears to be perpendicular

The warm springs at Matlock have not been so long discovered, nor are they possessed of so high a reputation as those at Buxton; they were first noticed about the year 1698. The water at Matlock, like that at Buxton, has gradually risen to the degree of reputation which it now possesses, and some idea may be formed of the esteem in which it is held, by the company which frequent the place every season—It is calculated that the bath houses, in conjunction with the private lodging houses in the neighbourhood, will accommodate about 200 persons, and it is well known, that during the height of the season, they are not sufficient to receive

ceive all the company that resort to the place.

In pursuing the other rivers which run through the Peak of Derbyshire, several romantic dales are to be met with—The river Wye has its source near Buxton, the banks of which are in many places very striking and beautiful: at a small distance from the village of Wormhill, the dale is very deep; when you come to the bottom, you are struck with the sight of a prodigious large rock, called Chee Torr, which is said to be 120 yards in height; in some parts it over hangs considerably, and is beautifully fringed with wood——there is great variety in this rock, nor can it be seen to advantage unless the spectator frequently changes the

the ground on which he stands; the river Wye, which flows at its foot, is likewise very beautiful.

From Chee Torr, to see Monsal Dale, Mr. Hill is the properest person to be your guide; it is only a bridle road—you go down by Millar's dale, Tidewell mill, and Litton mill; when you get to a point of land near Cresbrook dale, you have a fine view of three beautiful dales; on the south side stands Mr. Baker's house—he has made a large plantation of lavender, pepper-mint, and other aromatic herbs, and set up a distillery of them; this is called Cresbrook dale: From thence you proceed down the valley and leave a farm house on your right, and ascend the hill to Longston lane-head, at

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which place you join the Bakewell road; here you have a grand view of Monsal dale two different ways; casting your eye down into the valley, you will behold many objects to render the scene beautiful.

From Matlock to Kedleston, about fourteen miles, is the seat of Lord Scarfsdale: it was built from the design of Mr. Robert Adam—the front is magnificent and beautiful, the apartments elegant, and at the same time useful, a circumstance not always to be met with in a great house. It is the ancient seat of the Curzon's family, of great antiquity in this country—this house was built by the present Lord Scarfsdale in 1761.—The entrance from the turnpike road is through a grove of noble and venerable

nerable oaks—after crossing a fine lawn and passing the water by an elegant stone bridge of three arches, a gentle ascent leads to the house ; the front of which, of white stone, is extensive ; in the center is a flight of steps leading to a portico consisting of six Corinthian pillars three feet in diameter, which supports a pediment decorated with statues—on each side, a corridore connects a pavilion with the body of the house, forming the two wings, the whole front being 360 feet—the steps lead into a magnificent hall, behind which is a circular saloon—On the left are a music-room, drawing-room, and library, and at the end of the corridore, the private apartments of Lord and Lady Scarfdale, and their family—On the right of the hall are the dining-room, state

state dressing-room, the kitchen and offices—On each side of the hall are eight fluted pillars of variegated marble of the country, and two at each end of the Corinthian order, twenty-five feet high, two feet six inches in diameter; this room is sixty feet by thirty within the columns, sixty-seven feet three inches by forty-two within the walls, forty-seven to the top of the windows. Between the columns are fine antique statues, in niches, over which are basso relievos in compartments, crowned with festoons, the ceiling covered and richly ornamented with paintings and relievos in the antique taste—in the center is a window, by which the whole receives light; the pannels of the doors are of paper, the manufacture of Mr. Clay, of Birmingham, highly varnished,

ed, and the paintings well executed; the saloon is forty-two feet diameter, fifty-four feet six inches high, twenty-four feet six inches to the cornice, crowned with a doom which lights the room; over the door are four paintings by Moreland, and there are some statues in niches. The music-room is thirty-six feet by twenty-four—in this room is the triumphs of Bacchus, a large and capital piece of Luca Giordani; a fine head by Rembrandt; and other pieces by Bassan Horizont, &c. From this room a corridore hung with elegant prints, leads to the family apartments—The breakfast room is painted from the antique in the baths of Dioclesian. The grand drawing room is forty-four feet by twenty-eight, and twenty-eight high, with a coved ceiling; the

the furniture blue damask; a Venetian window, and four door cases are ornamented with small Corinthian columns of alabaster. In this room, as indeed in all the others, are many capital pictures—Raphael, Claude, Guido, Cuyh, &c. are amongst the masters—The Library is of the same size and height as the music room—in this room, over the chimney, is a piece of Rembrant, which begs all description, it is the story of Daniel brought before Nebuchadnezzar to interpret his dream, and contains eight or nine whole length figures; the composed majesty of the king who is seated in a chair of state, the astonishment and terror of his great men sitting near him, and the earnestness of Daniel kneeling before him, in short, the whole piece is beautiful beyond

beyond expression—striking from this room across the saloon, is the dressing room and bed-chamber, with a servant's room behind, the two former hung with blue damask, the bed of the same, with gold lace, supported by palm trees of mahogany, carved and gilt; the bed room is thirty feet by twenty-two, and twenty high; the dining parlour is thirty-six feet by twenty-four, and twenty high, the cieling adorned with paintings; the center represents Love embracing Fortune, by Moreland; four circles by Zuccho, represents the four quarters of the world; and four squares by Hamilton, the four seasons. The corridore on this side, which is used as a chapel, leads to a gallery overlooking the kitchen, which is forty-eight feet by twenty-four, and lofty, with

with this significant motto, *waste not, want not*. The principal stair-case leading out of the hall to the attic story at this end, conducts to eight apartments for visitors, most of which have bed-rooms, and servants rooms. The church stands close to the west end of the house. From the principal front of the house, which is the north, the eye is conducted by a beautiful slope to the water, which is seen falling down a cascade, encircling an island, planted with trees, and then forming a large river on which is a yacht; below is a small rustic building, over the well and bath, which is principally valued for the antiscorbutic quality of which it is possessed; when taken inwardly it is diuretic, and has given relief to persons afflicted with the gravel; it,
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has also been found useful from external application ; in this way it is said to have been employed with advantage in most diseases of the skin, but more especially in ulcerous complaints--this water, when drank in quantity, has a binding property, and persons of a costive habit cannot make use of it without a gentle purgative, but upon others it is said to be directly the reverse.

Kedleston House certainly exhibits a very striking proof of taste and ingenuity, every thing is rich, but nothing tawdry, trifling, or affected ; in buildings of this kind, convenience and utility are often sacrificed to elegance and grandeur, but here it is scarcely possible to say which has been most consulted--the state
rooms

rooms are not many—the rest of the house consists of excellent offices and comfortable apartments, and the plan of the whole is easy and intelligible; the situation of the house and the improvements about it also afford undoubted evidence of fine taste and exquisite contrivance. Though the seat of Lord Scarfsdale justly excites the admiration of all those, who visit it, it is not yet brought to that state of perfection to which his Lordship intends to carry it; he is now employed in making considerable alterations and improvements, both in the house and the grounds about it—what he has already executed has been attended with immense labour and expence, for besides the works which have been noticed, he has taken down the ancient family seat, and removed

a small village and corn mill near it to a considerable distance ; the road also which had been formerly near the house has been restored to its ancient direction by Kedleston Inn, kept by Mr. Stephens, where a great deal of company resort during the season, both to bathe and drink the water—it is much the same as Harrogate, in Yorkshire.

From Kedleston you proceed to Ashborne, and from there take a guide to see Dovedale, about three miles from Ashborne, and from Buxton eighteen.

At Okeover (two miles from Ashborne) which is a seat belonging to a gentleman of that name, is a piece of painting by Raphael, which is exquisite

site indeed. From Hence you proceed to Ilam, a seat of Mr. Porte. On entering this gentleman's grounds (for the house has nothing in it remarkable) you get into a deep glen, on either side well covered with trees and with the river Manifold rolling at the bottom; hence continuing your progress, you come to a rude seat in a rock, famous as being the spot where Congreve, then scarcely nineteen, wrote his *Old Bachelor*. Descending by a number of steps, which afford a grand view of the opposite hill, you continue along the path way, at the side of which are many considerable sized trees, growing through the interstices of the rocks, and which as they increase in bulk, gradually expand; and from this spot you get upon a flat,

flat, where you are encircled by a range of beautiful and lofty wood, except at one end, where the Thorp Cloud, at the entrance of Dove dale, peeps through the trees; thence continuing along the borders of a canal you come to the spot where the rivers Hemp and Manifold issue from two apertures in a rock, at the distance of fifteen yards from each other. As the sources, as they are called, of such bodies of water, these springs would be worthy the observation of a traveller, but when you find they are merely the continuance of the same rivers, which lose themselves in different parts of the country, the Hemp being four miles distant, and the Manifold six, and five miles at least from each other, the matter becomes a curiosity, and many people

people might be led to suppose, that by shewing themselves so very close to each other at Ilam, it is probable they joined in their subterranean passage ; but this is put beyond a doubt by experiment ; the gardener being a man of a more extensive way of thinking than generally falls to the lot of people of his class, threw somewhat above two gross of corks into the Manifold, where it loses itself, and watching the next two days unremittingly in his master's grounds, he at length found about two dozen of them issue from the chasm of the Manifold ; the others being stopped in their progress, or ground to pieces by the sharpness of the rocks ; and to ascertain this as certain, a similar trial had been made with the Hemps, and that it answered in the same manner ;

manner ; these experiments, therefore, prove demonstratively, that they continue asunder during the whole course of their progress. At Ilam they join their streams with that of the Dove, and there form a river. From this place you proceed to Dovedale, so called from the river of that name running through it. The approach to this place along the side of Thorp Cloud, is, though much admired, very unworthy of admiration, the Cloud having neither height nor beauty to recommend it ; on entering the dale you walk along the banks of the river, which winds beautifully, and is a clear transparent brook—the rocks too on either side misshapen and grotesque, with a profusion of woods scattered up and down, give a wild and romantic va-

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riety

riety to the scene. Not far within the dale your guide shews you the frightful eminence, where the Rev. Mr. Langton, Dean of Clogher in Ireland, proposed, on horseback, to ascend a very high precipice near Reynard's Hall, which is apparently between three and four hundred feet high; and Miss La Roche, a young lady of the party, with greater spirit than prudence, begged that she might get up behind, and accompany him in his bold adventure; her request was immediately complied with, and the head of the horse directed up the precipice—when they had climbed the steep ascent to a considerable height, the feet of the horse slipped, and they all fell down, the clergyman and the horse to the bottom of the dale, but the lady not quite so far, being

being stopped in her descent by a bramble bush which caught hold of her hair: when the Dean was taken up, he was found to be bruised in a most terrible manner—he was conveyed to Ashborne, where he languished a few days and died. When the servants ascended the precipice, they found the young lady in an insensible state; she was immediately taken to Ashborne, where she recovered in a few days; the horse was more fortunate than the riders, for tho' it rolled to the bottom of the precipice, the only injury it received from the fall, was a few bruises on its sides. From this circumstance, I would advise the company that resort to Dovedale, to walk up the dale, and send their horses round to meet them at the top, which is near New

Inn turnpike, eighteen miles from Buxton. The Staffordshire side of the dale and little stream of Dove dividing it from Derbyshire, are well clothed with trees, while the opposite shore, which is totally bereft of wood, is so barren and rugged, that their dissimilarity is entertaining: a chasm to the right soon opens itself, thro' which you have a delightful view of the traversings of the river, and of an assemblage of rocks, which are almost buried within the trees, and gives an idea of a mouldering monastery.

From this place the rocks continue, some stupendous, and others so rent asunder, that they form the oddest appearances that can be conceived. Proceeding on, you come to a grand arch in a rock,
called

called Reynard's Hole, from whence you have a deversified scene before you, and passing through it you next ascend Reynard's Hall, and Reynard's Kitchen. This situation furnishes a beautiful but continued view of the dale; the rocks on the opposite are finely adorned with hangings woods, and at a small distance from them, in the midst of this woody scenery, arises a grand solitary pointed rock, which by way of eminence is known by the name of Dovedale Church; its appearance is peculiarly pleasing and sublime, and cannot fail to strike the eye of every one who passes by it. Before you quit the dale you must not forget a cold fountain, which issuing immediately into the river from a spring almost on the same level, renders

ders it difficult sometimes to be found out ; the water, however, is transparent and sweet.

A little way higher up the dale are also many delightful scenes, and it may be proper to add, that at the distance of a mile from Buxton, is a deep and craggy precipice, known by the name of the Lovers Leap—this part of the dale is no more than a narrow and tremendous chasm, and it requires some firmness of mind to be able to look down to the bottom of it without feeling some degree of terror.

Middleton dale is a narrow winding and deep chasm; in grandeur and beauty it is not inferior to some of the vallies and dales which I have attempted

attempted to describe; yet the rocks in it are of so peculiar a shape, that they never fail to make a striking impression on the mind of those who happen to visit the place; on the north side they bear a strong resemblance to the round towers and buttresses of a ruined castle, and in some parts there is such an appearance of mouldings, that one can scarcely help thinking that it is not as nature formed it—the rocks are entirely perpendicular, and rise to the height of 3 or 400 feet; they are every where naked and unadorned, excepting a point near the entrance into Eyam dale, where Mr. Longsden has raised a beautiful plantation, and in the midst of it, formed a grotto, which he has furnished with the most elegant fossils, collected in that part of the country.

country. From the views which have been given of Derbyshire, we see that it furnishes many scenes of picturesque beauty.

Chatworth, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, is about seventeen miles from Buxton, it is not easy to say which is most deserving of admiration, the magnificence of the Building, or the extraordinary appearance of the country in which it is situated. When you approach the house at Chatworth, you are struck with the idea of a palace, and immediately conceive that so grand and noble a mansion can be only proper for the residence of a subject of the first rank and fortune: it is built round a large quadrangular court, and has two principal fronts, the extent

tent of one 182, and of the other 180 feet: the lightness and elegance of the former, does honour to the architect; but the other sides of the house are not quite so beautiful: after passing the porter's door, you are conducted through a long court, into the anti-room, and from thence into another court round which the apartments are built; on the two opposite sides, is a colonade, 60 yards long, and in the centre a fountain, with the statue of Orpheus: a passage at the North East corner, leads to the hall, and from thence into the apartments. The hall is 60 feet by 27: the paintings are chiefly by Varro; the death of Cæsar in the capital, is very fine. The stair caise is 30 feet by 24, from whence you pass through a long gallery, hung with prints, into
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the chapel, which is spacious and handsomely fitted up: the floor is marble, the seats are made of cedar; and the carved work was executed by Cibber and Gibbons: on each side of the altar is a statue, by the former, which are Faith and Hope; the draperies have great merit, but the hairs of the head are not equally good; besides these, there are many other ornaments in the chapel, by the same hand, and amongst the paintings, the infidelity of Thomas is deserving of particular notice. There is one large room fitted up in a most elegant manner, hung with a red silk Tabberet, in which there is a glass, consisting of two pieces, very large, and handsome; this was once a single piece, designed for this apartment, but was broken in

in the park, by the overturning of the waggon in which it was carried—it was valued at 500l.

The dining-room is 50 feet by 30, it has lately been fitted up in a modern and elegant manner; and is likewise hung with a beautiful silk. The dancing gallery is 100 feet by 22; it is exceeding beautiful, and is adorned with fine paintings, statues and carved work; there are six statues in the coves; the ceilings are very elegantly painted, and the cornice gilt. When Gibbons had finished his work at Chatsworth, he presented the Duke with a point cravat, a woodcock, and a medal, which are here preserved in a glass case: Passing through the billiard room and a gallery, you come into the blue room,
and

and the late Duke's apartments ; then returning by the same gallery, you are conducted to the Dutchess's dressing room, the furniture in which is very elegant, and the ceiling beautifully painted : Passing through her Grace's bed chamber, and the Duke's dressing room and chamber, you enter the music room, which is painted in imitation of marble, and ascending another stair-case, you come to the apartments in the attic story. The room by Sir James Thornhill is 30 feet by 20 ; another large room has a portrait of the second Dutchess of Devonshire, and four children, not unworthy of notice : returning to the stair-case, and passing through a modern dressing room, you come to the state apartments on the south side of the house ; in a closet is a carved
pen

pen, scarcely distinguishable from a real feather : in the antichamber, which is 34 feet by 30, there are fowls over the chimney piece, finely carved ; these, as well the pen, were executed by Gibbons : in the closet are several good paintings, particularly the discovery of Ulysses. The withdrawing room is 36 feet by 30 ; in it are several good portraits ; it is hung with tapestry, which is esteemed to be the best in the house ; the carved work is very fine : in another withdrawing room, of the same size with the last, are the coronation chairs used when the present king came to the throne ; they were a perquisite of office to the late Duke, as Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household. The withdrawing room is 50 feet by 30 ; the carving of the
fowl

fowl and fish over the chimney piece is very fine, and the ceiling is adorned with many beautiful paintings—A singular ludicrous incident is recorded in one part of the ceiling, viz. Mrs. Hacket, the Housekeeper, is drawn in the character of a fury, cutting the thread of life; it is said, that being violently enraged with the painter, he caught the air of her countenance, and represented it in all the deformity with which it then appeared. You now come to the modern apartments, generally called the apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots; but it would be an error to suppose that this unfortunate Queen ever made use of these apartments; yet it is an undoubted fact, that she was some time confined at Chatworth, and wrote from thence her
second

second letter to Pope Pius, dated 31st October, 1570, but this event took place more than a century before the present house was built ; however as it stands near the situation of the old one, it is probable that the apartments answer to those which were appropriated to the use of the Queen of Scots : in the bed-chamber is the bed which was presented to the Duke on the same occasion with the coronation chairs : in another apartment, which is 50 feet by 30, are several excellent specimens of carving by the same hand which has adorned so many parts of the house. The situation of Chatworth House is no less striking and magnificent, than the building itself. It stands in a wide and deep Valley, and near the foot of an high mountain,

tain, which is finely covered with wood : in the gardens, the object of the greatest curiosity is the water works, and the most striking is the great cascade; when this is exhibited, you see the water descending with a considerable noise and velocity down a steep hill, and after running 2 or 300 yards, sinking in the earth and entirely disappearing: at the head of the cascade is a temple, on the pinnacle of which are placed four lions heads, and on the front lies the god Nilus at full length, in a reclining posture; a little below are two sea nymphs, betwixt whom and the river god, are two lions heads, and under all these are two dolphins; the water spouts out from the mouth of each of these figures, into a bason beneath, in which it also rises up in the shape of
of

of a fan. Beside these there are two other discharges on each side of the bason, from which the water in a sudden and irregular manner, rushes out with a great noise and violence, and when the bason is filled, it rolls down the hill, and the cascade is seen in all its beauty. Leaving this place, you enter a wood to the South, where you are shewn two copper trees, the branches of which produce an artificial shower: returning by the same path, and descending the hill, you come to a large bason, in the middle of which is a fountain, which throws the water up to the height of 60 feet, and at a small distance is the grand canal, which is 320 yards long and 25 broad, near the north end of which are two Spynx, on large bases, with ornaments, in good taste, well executed

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by

by Cibber : in this canal is a fountain which throws the water 90 feet high, and in a bason nearer the house, are four sea horses and a triton, from the head of each of which, small streams issue. All these works are supplied by a large reservoir of water, which is said to cover 16 acres of land ; pipes to each are laid underground, and the gardener, who is with the company, gives notice to a person on the hill, which pipe he wishes to be filled. On the North East side of the house stands the great stables, they are magnificent and well contrived ; the West and North fronts are said to extend 202 feet ; they were built 30 years ago. On the side of the valley opposite the house, are several small hills crowned with plantations : beyond which, but
more

more especially to the North, the mountains of the peak rear their lofty heads towards the clouds ; in short, every object in view, appears with an usual air of greatness and sublimity. Chatsworth appears to have been nearly two centuries the seat of the ancestors of the noble family to which it now belongs : A handsome house was built here by the Countess of Shrewsbury, mother of the first Earl of Devonshire, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but that was taken down, and the present noble and stately mansion raised in its stead by the last Earl of Devonshire, a few years before the revolution.

William, the fifth, and present Duke of Devonshire, is Lord Treasurer of Ireland, Governor of the county

county of Cork, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, and Lord High Steward of the corporation of Derby. In the year 1774, his Grace married Georgina, daughter of Lord Viscount Spencer, of Althorpe, in the county of Northampton, by whom he has issue two daughters and one son, the Marquis of Hartington.

Haddon Hall, near Bakewell, is a very ancient mansion, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Rutland. Chelmerton is about five miles from Buxton, a pleasant ride, and has a spire steeple : at the top of the village, at the three mile stone, on the London road, on the North East, about half a mile from Chelmerton, is a barrow or low, which was examined in the year 1782. This barrow, which

I shall describe, is a small circular mount, whose circumference at the base, measures about 75 yards; its height is seven feet; at the top is a hollow resembling a basin, and a knowledge of its inward construction was obtained by some labouring men, who were searching for stone to build a wall: After removing a thin covering of moss and soil from the lower part or skirt of the mount, they discovered a kind of breast-work, or regular wall of stones formed without mortar; not expecting to meet with any thing extraordinary beyond this wall, they proceeded in their work, but were soon surprized by the sight of several human bodies; they found that the wall was the end of the cell or coffin, in which the bodies had been laid, though some
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of the stones, and a small quantity of the soil had fallen into the vault, yet several human bodies might be clearly distinguished lying at full length, with their heads towards the center of the mount, the bones of which had never been disturbed, and were apparently united together at the different joints, but on the slightest motion were found to be entirely loose and unconnected—yet upon examination they were found to be strong and sound, and the ribs not displaced; those who saw the bones, thought they were uncommonly large, and imagined the persons, when alive to have been seven feet high at least—the teeth were found and perfect. From the number of bones and skulls, and the dimensions of the vault, it was supposed to have contained four

or

or five bodies : though only one vault was opened and examined, it was presumed that others were carried through the circumference of the mount, and from the width of that which was opened, it was calculated there are about twenty.

About two miles from Buxton, on the Macclesfield road, is a very extensive common, one part of which belongs to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and the other to the Earl of Derby; it abounds with grouse—there are also partridges, hares, woodcocks, snipes, dotterels, and plovers, and many gentlemen resort thither during the shooting season. The rides about Buxton are pleasant and airy, and create the company good appetites: to Fair-
field

field is one mile, a pleasant ride, round the Barms, then go on the Sheffield road; near the second mile stone, turn at the four-lane-ends to your right of Hardy Barn, this leads you into Great Rocks pasture, a mile long, which belongs to Mr. Goodwin; at the farther end of it, you have a prospect of the river Wye and down the valley towards Chee Torr, which looks very romantic; you may cross the river Wye, at Blackwell mill, and come by Chelmerston to Buxton, where you will join the London road three miles from Buxton. The way to Chee Torr is on the Sheffield road till you come to the four mile stone, then leave the turnpike and keep near the wall side to your right, which will lead you into the village of Wormhill;

when

when you come about the half way down the village, you will see a small neat fashed house called the Chee Torr coffee house, belonging to Mr. Hill, who is the most proper person to shew you the Torr; and as you cannot ride to the rock, it is proper to leave your horses here, and walk there; when you come to the bottom of the village, on your left, betwixt an avenue of trees, you will see a genteel smart house belonging to John Bagshaw, Esq.

The road to the ebbing and flowing well, is another pleasant ride about five miles; when you are at Fairfield, go on by the clump of trees at the top of the Barms, then take the lane straight forward, till you come to the Dove-hole House, which
is

is a quarter of a mile, and take the first gate to the right hand of a narrow lane, which leads you to a few houses called the Horsteds, where you may be directed to Mr. Taylor's in Bartmoor, who will shew the well. In dry weather, it ebbs and flows every half hour, and in wet, every quarter; it is about fifteen minutes in rising and falling, and rises to the height of about four inches, and then goes gradually off.

From there he will direct you to Castleton, which is about seven miles farther, a bridle, but not a carriage road. Another road to Castleton—when you are at the Barms House, where the clump of trees is beyond Fairfield, take the first lane on your right hand to the four lane ends, which
is

is called Batham Gate, leave the nursery on your left hand, and take the lane straight forward to the bottom of the hill, through a gate, and about one hundred yards farther you come to another gate, leave that on your right and go up the valley to Small Dale, a few houses, where they will direct you to Peak-forest, and there they will direct you by Elden Hole to Castleton, about four miles.

Another pleasant ride from Buxton is on the London road ; about half a mile leave the turnpike road, and go by a white house belonging to Mr. Longden, then go straight on the road for about a mile, and you will come to Hasling Houses, then leave the house on your right and the turnpike

pike road on your left, and keep the wall side for a mile and a half on the common, and you will come to the Cheadle road, which leads you to the top of the hill, then leave the turnpike road on your right, and on the top of the hill for two miles as you go along, you will see a little village below you in the valley, called Earl Sterndale—but commonly called Church Sterndale, and the valley beyond that is Dove-dale, which you have a fine view of, and the romantic hills adjoining thereto.

The balls are in the grand room in the great hotel ; the dress balls are on Wednesday nights, undress balls are on Mondays and Fridays ; an elegant card room, adjoining the grand room is open every night.
There

There is a coach goes through Buxton from Manchester to London, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, passengers breakfast at the White Hart in Buxton, at ten o'clock, meets the London coach at Leicester, and returns through Buxton to Manchester, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, dines at the Eagle and Child in Buxton, at three o'clock, and arrives at Manchester the same night: fare from Manchester to London two guineas, outside half price. There is another coach from Manchester, and one from Sheffield every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, arrives at the White Hart, in Buxton, about twelve o'clock, and returns to Manchester and Sheffield again the same evening, fare from Buxton to Manchester
eight

eight shillings, the same to Sheffield, outside passengers half price. Carriers to and from Buxton—Pickford's waggon goes through Buxton, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to London;—Basses's waggon Wednesdays and Saturdays to London, meets another at Ashborn, and returns every Monday and Thursday mornings through Buxton to Manchester, and stops at the New Inn; Shallcross's waggon goes through Buxton every Saturday, meets Hawkins' and Co. at Derby, and returns through Buxton every Wednesday; Knowles's waggon goes through Buxton from Manchester to Nottingham every Saturday, and returns the Friday following; there is Wild and Fidler's cart goes to Macclesfield every Monday and Friday mornings, and returns to Buxton the
same

same evening; Swindel's, and Walton's carts go to Sheffield every Tuesday, but the days of returning to Buxton, are not regular.

Post coming in and going out—South post comes in every morning at seven o'clock; goes out again; at four o'clock in the afternoon—North post goes out every morning at seven o'clock, and comes in at four o'clock in the afternoon.

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire is planting the hills round Buxton, which, when finished, will have a noble appearance. The stables which his Grace has erected at Buxton, are supposed to be the grandest in Europe when compleated; there is a ride in the inside of the circus
many

many yards round, where the ladies and gentlemen may ride in wet weather, and walk under the piazzas in the crescent when it rains; Buxton is well supplied with fish from Warrington, Manchester, and Sheffield; during the season, there are fine trout and crawfish in the river Wye, which rises near Buxton, but the finest trout are in the rivers Lathkill and Bradford, about ten or twelve miles from Buxton; the town is well supplied with excellent beef, veal, mutton, lamb, vegetables and fruit during the season.

Subscription to the ball and card room, one guinea.

Ditto, If a family, one guinea the first, and half a guinea each after.

Ditto, to the coffee and news room five shillings.

There

There is a good company of comedians belonging to Mr. Welch, who perform during the season, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

There is also a circulating library kept by Mr. Bott, who accommodates the company with horses for airing, upon reasonable terms.

Measurement

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*Measurement of the principal Post Roads
from Buxton, according to the Mile
Stones.*

Buxton to Manchester 24 Miles.

Disley	$10\frac{1}{2}$		Manchester	7
Stockport	$6\frac{1}{2}$			

Buxton to Sheffield 24 Miles.

Tideswell	$6\frac{1}{2}$		Sheffield	12
Middleton	$5\frac{1}{2}$			

Buxton to Chesterfield 24 Miles.

Tideswell	$6\frac{1}{2}$		Chesterfield	12
Middleton	$5\frac{1}{2}$			

Buxton to Chatsworth 17 Miles.

Tideswell	$6\frac{1}{2}$		Chatsworth	5
Middleton	$5\frac{1}{2}$			

Another Road to Chatsworth 17 Miles.

Money-ash	8		Bakewell	1
Ashford	5		Chatsworth	3

Marble Works to be seen at Ash-
ford, worthy of notice.

Buxton

Buxton to Liverpool 51 Miles.

Macclesfield	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Prescot	10
Knutsford	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Liverpool	8
Warrington	11		

Buxton to Congleton 20 Miles.

Macclesfield	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Congleton	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
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*Another Road to Congleton 15 Miles.**Buxton to Bath 148 Miles.*

Leek	12	Bromsgrove	10
Sandon	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Worcester	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stafford	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tewksbury	15
Penkridge	6	Frocester	22
W. Hampton	10	Bath	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stourbridge	10		

Buxton to Bath another Road 152 Miles.

Newhaven	11	Bromsgrove	14
Ashborn	9	Droitwich	6
Sudbury	9	Worcester	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lichfield	16	To Bath as	
Birmingham	16	before	64 $\frac{1}{2}$

Buxton to Castleton 12 Miles.

Tideswell	6	Castleton	6
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Another

(84)

Another Road to Castleton 12 Miles.

Peak-forest	6		Castleton	5
Perryfoot	1			

The Seven Wonders of the Peak.

First Wonder is Pool's Hole.

Second Ditto, St. Ann's Well.

Third Ditto, ebbing & flowing Well.

Fourth Ditto, Elden Hole.

Fifth Ditto, Mam Torr.

Sixth Ditto, Peak's Hole, Castleton.

Seventh Ditto, Chatsworth.

F I N I S.

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